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DEPT FOR ISN/CPI FOR KEVIN MCGEEHAN
DEPT PLEASE PASS TO TREASURY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/14/2029
TAGS: [GM](#) [IR](#) [IZ](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [XF](#) [XG](#) [XT](#) [ZP](#) [ZR](#)
SUBJECT: IRAQ LICENSING OF BANK MELLI BRANCHES

REF: STATE 115821

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Ford for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

(C) DCM Ford delivered reftel talking points and non-paper regarding Bank Melli to PM Chief of Staff Tariq Abdullah on December 10. The DCM emphasized that the GOI could prevent the establishment of new branches of Bank Melli outside of Baghdad by simply allowing three previously issued licenses to expire at the end of the year. Tariq was generally noncommittal to our demarche points, but appeared ready to consider allowing the licenses to expire, remarking "maybe we could do that.⁸ The DCM offered to arrange an Embassy presentation on Bank Melli, and will follow up on this issue in future meetings with Abdullah.

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